Response Under 37 CFR § 1.116 Expedited Procedure—Examining Group 2161 PATENT

CERTIFICATION OF ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 via electronic submission on the date shown below.

By: June Cura

Date: //24/09

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applic. No.

10/728,389

Confirmation, No. 9231

Applicant

Kevin Smith et al.

Filed

December 5, 2003

Title

Tissue Retractor and Method for Using the Retractor

TC/Art Unit

3773

Examiner

Julian W. WOO

Docket No.

SYN-8312

Customer No.

27,316

AMENDMENT

Mail Stop AF

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Attention: Examiner WOO Tel (571) 272-4707

RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Sir:

The following amendment is being submitted in response to the Final Office Action dated November 18, 2008. Please enter and consider the following amendment and remarks and issue the Advisory Action, if any, before the 3-month due date:

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